

**Telephone Remarks to the
Community of Rochester, New
Hampshire**

February 17, 1996

I'm sorry I'm not there, but I'm on the way. We spent 2 hours on the runway in Washington today, waiting for a weather clearance. If you'll wait for me I'll be there. I'm looking forward to it.

I know between Jeanne Shaheen and everybody else that's there you can find plenty of people to speak until I get there. Just tell old stories and reminisce, and I'll be there as quick as I can.

Thank you. Good-bye.

NOTE: The President spoke at 10:40 a.m. aboard Air Force One while en route to Pease International Trade Port. In his remarks, he referred to Jeanne Shaheen, New Hampshire State senator.

**Remarks to the Community in
Rochester**

February 17, 1996

Thank you very much. Thank you for waiting. Thank you. I can see that someone was up to a lot of mischief before I got here. [Laughter]

Let me say that I was all dressed up and ready to go at 7 a.m. sharp this morning, and they said I couldn't leave the White House until 8 a.m. because of the weather. And when I got to the airport we sat there for another 2 hours. But I knew that I would wait for you if you would wait for me, and I thank you for being here. I'm glad to see you.

I want to thank the Rochester Middle School rock and jazz band for playing and for playing "Hail to the Chief." Give them a hand there. [Applause] I want to thank the Spaulding High Red Raiders, the boys and the girls basketball teams, who gave up their practice yesterday to prepare this. Thank you very much.

I thank my friend, Jeanne Shaheen, for her leadership here in New Hampshire and for that wonderful introduction and what she embodies. I want to thank George Stephanopoulos and my old friend David

Matthews for warming the crowd up before I came. I want to say thank you to the mayor, your deputy mayor, your county attorney, my old friend, George Maglaris, who was here earlier and, I think, said a few words; all the others who spoke before. I'd also like to acknowledge two friends of mine from 4 years ago who aren't here today, Mayor Roland Roberge and his wife, Lorraine. I miss them and I know you remember them well here in Rochester.

I know someone before I came here mentioned it, but 4 years ago, I made 75 scheduled appearances and countless more unscheduled appearances in New Hampshire in just the last 6 weeks of the campaign, from New Year's Day forward. And not very far from here, at the Dover Elks Club, I gave what became a rather famous speech, because I said that I was trying to give the election for President back to the American people and back to the people of New Hampshire, and that if you would give it to me, I would be there for you 'til the last dog dies.

I have come here today to give you an accounting of that pledge and to ask you to look to the future; and to ask you to bring all this incredible enthusiasm with you into this election year as citizens; and to ask you, yes, to go out and vote in the primary on Tuesday for Bill Clinton for President of the United States.

I brought a straightforward vision to this job. I wanted to see the American dream available for all Americans, not just a few. I wanted to see our country continue to be the world's greatest force for peace and freedom. And I wanted to see our country coming together, not being divided for cheap, short-term political reasons. I said that I thought the only way we could achieve that is if all of us worked for more opportunity, all of us showed more personal responsibility, and all of us made a real commitment to build an American community.

Well, in the last 3 years, here's where we are; the good and the not so good. Look at the economy. We have the lowest combined rates of unemployment and inflation in 27 years; almost 8 million new jobs; homeownership at a 15-year high. We're moving in the right direction.